

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1056

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0829

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, SL

SUBJECT: SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR STEVENS-DAVIS MEETING

FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR MEETING
IN NEW YORK BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS AND
PRESIDENT STEVENS:

1. INTRODUCTORY TONE

YOU ARE AWARE OF THE EXTREMELY FRIENDLY AND EHLP-
FUL WELCOME PRESIDENT STEVENS, HIS GOVERNMENT AND
PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN TO AMBASSADOR SAMUELS AND OTHERS
IN THE EMBASSY ESPECIALLY OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS.
USG IS HOPEFUL THIS INDICATES DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN
RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. SPEAKING FOR
PRESIDENT FORD AND SECRETARY KISSINGER, AS INDICATED
BY COMMENTS THEY HAVE MADE IN RECENT WEEKS, USG VERY
ANXIOUS TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS IN AFRICA GENERALLY
AND WITH SIERRA LEONE SPECIFICALLY.

FOR YOUR PART, ESPECIALLY SINCE MISUNDERSTANDING
CONCERNING YOUR APPOINTMENT AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, YOU WERE ANXIOUS TO GO
TO NEW YORK TO MEET STEVENS AND TO INDICATE YOUR
HOPE THAT OUR RELATIONS, NOW IMPROVING, WILL CONTINUE
TO DO SO.

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2. THE KOREAN ISSUE

USG AWARE OF SERIOUS DILEMMA OVER KOREAN ISSUE WITH WHICH STEVENS HAS BEEN GRAPPLING OVER PAST COUPLE OF MONTHS. ALTHOUGH THIS ISSUE DOES NOT DIRECTLY CONCERN USG, WE ARE OF COURSE INTERESTED IN OUTCOME. OBVIOUSLY, FROM USG POINT OF VIEW, IT WOULD SEEM AT VARIANCE WITH SIERRA LEONE'S WELL ESTABLISHED NONALIGNED STANCE IN WORLD AFFAIRS FOR GOSL, NOW THAT RESIDENT SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY ESTABLISHED, NOT TO ALLOW PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OF A RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO WHOM COMMITMENT HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE. THIS ESPECIALLY TRUE GIVEN THE PRESENCE OF NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY. YOU AWAIT RESULTS OF GOSL'S DELIBERATIONS ON THIS ISSUE. YOU HAVE BEEN PLEASED, HOWEVER, TO LEARN THAT PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED AMBASSADOR SAMUELS THAT AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE OF SOUTH KOREA WILL EVENTUALLY BE ALLOWED TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS AND SETTLE IN FREETOWN. YOU HOPE THIS MATTER WILL BE RESOLVED SOON AFTER PRESIDENT'S RETURN TO FREETOWN.

3. BETHLEHEM STEEL NEGOTIATIONS

USG HAS BEEN FOLLOWING WITH CLOSE INTEREST NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOSL AND BETHLEHEM STEEL FOR THE PRODUCTION OF RUTILE AND PERHAPS IRON ORE. YOU ARE AWARE OF SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS THAT CLOSELY INVOLVED PRESIDENT HIMSELF AND OTHER RANKING MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT A WEEK AGO. USG HOPEFUL THAT GOSL AND BETHSTEEL WILL FIND MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT. AS PRESIDENT IS AWARE, PRIVATE INVESTMENT IS ONE OF BEST FORMS OF CAPITAL TRANSFER FROM DEVELOPED TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND CLEARLY ONE OF THE SOURCES MOST AVAILABLE FROM THE UNITED STATES (COMMENT: AVOID MENTIONING EXIM AT ALL, SINCE PRESIDENT'S TRAIN OF THOUGHT LIKELY TO BE DIVERTED THEREAFTER. END COMMENT.)

4. USG ASSISTANCE

YOU ARE PLEASED THAT PEACE CORPS AND EMBASSY'S SELF-HELP PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL AND WELL CONFIDENTIAL

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RECEIVED. YOU ARE AWARE THAT OTHER OFFICIAL USG ASSISTANCE TO SIERRA LEONE HAS BEEN REDUCED IN RECENT YEARS. SOME (COMMENT: INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT) IN GOSL FEEL THIS HAS REFLECTED USG CRITICISM OF APC GOVERNMENT. NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM TRUTH. AS PRESIDENT IS AWARE, USG HOPES FOR DECISION IMMINENTLY THAT WOULD ALLOW SIGNIFICANT USG CONTRIBUTION TO EXPANDED CARE FEEDER ROAD ACTIVITY IN SIERRA LEONE.

(IF FEEDER ROAD DECISION ALREADY MADE IN WASHINGTON, EMBASSY WOULD STILL APPRECIATE HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL STEVENS OFFICIALLY FIRST HERE IN FREETOWN WITH LOCAL PUBLICITY.) AMBASSADOR SAMUELS HAS BEEN TALKING TO MEMBERS OF CABINET AND HAS HAD OFFICIALS FROM USG TO FREETOWN FOR DISCUSSIONS TO IDENTIFY WAYS WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF OUR OWN AID LEGISLATION FOR FURTHER COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN THIS CONTEXT, USG PLEASED THAT LATEST GOSL DEVELOPMENT PLAN EMPHASIZES AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOR WE BELIEVE THAT DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY SHOULD BE PLACED ON THE RURAL AREAS. GOSL'S FURTHER EMPHASIS OF SELF-HELP PROGRAMS IS BOTH COMMENDABLE AND CONSISTENT WITH OUR OWN PROGRAMS.
SAMUELS

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